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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEB SITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

April 2, 2014

Mr. Keith Creel
President & Chief Operating Officer
Canadian Pacific
7550 Ogden Dale Road Southeast
Calgary, AB T2C 4X9
Canada

Dear Mr. Creel:

As a follow up to our recent phone conversation and my staff's continued outreach, I write to underscore my concerns about the declining rail service South Dakota shippers have faced this winter and are continuing to experience from Canadian Pacific (CP).

As your pending sale of the Dakota, Minnesota, and Eastern Railroad in South Dakota has shown, reliable rail service is crucial to many in my home state. It is how farmers, ethanol producers, and other small business owners get their products to domestic and international markets. It is also how these same rail service customers receive inputs for their agricultural or manufacturing needs. The disruptions they are facing have very real impacts on their businesses, not only in the short term, but also in their long term ability to run efficiently and profitably.

I certainly understand the toll the long harsh winter has caused the nation's rail system and appreciate there are no quick solutions to this problem. That said, every effort should be made to ensure adequate service is restored to rail customers as quickly as possible, especially for those that have no alternative rail service available to them.

As the weather continues to improve nationwide, I encourage CP to work to ensure South Dakota's shippers receive the reliable service they have come to expect and count on. That being said, I will continue to be in touch to ensure that specific SD shipper issues are brought to your attention so they can be addressed as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
Ranking Member

cc: Surface Transportation Board